

CHARGE TO THE STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING GROUP OF THE ESIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Since its establishment in 1998, the ESIP Federation has evolved from a consortium of 24 NASA-funded projects to a broad-based network of data centers, research laboratories, universities, education resource providers, technology developers and non-profit and commercial enterprises that is concerned with bringing Earth observation information to bear on environmental research, education and decision-making. NOAA and EPA have Joined NASA as ESIP Strategic Partners and sponsors, USGS and NSF-funded entities have become significantly involved in ESIP committees and working groups and, in return, ESIP has become a leading advocate and supporter of federal efforts to advance the goals of US GEO and the international GEOSS initiative.

Growth and change of the magnitude experienced by the ESIP Federation create both challenges and opportunities. In 2004, the organization began to address these issues by engaging in a strategic planning process and adopting a three-year development plan that identified its goals, objectives and priorities. As we come to the end of our 2004 three-year plan and as we approach our ten year anniversary, it is not only appropriate but essential that we look toward the future. For this reason, I am appointing a special Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the Executive Committee to examine where the ESIP Federation has been and recommend where we should go in the future. It is my hope that the Subcommittee will be able to report back to the ESIP Executive Committee in time for the Executive Committee to make appropriate recommendations to the ESIP Assembly at the January 2008 Winter Meeting.

In carrying out its mission, it is expected that the Subcommittee will survey and/or interview the voting representatives and other personnel of member organizations who participate in the work of the ESIP Federation to determine what they want from the Federation, what we are currently doing well and what needs to be improved. It is also expected that the Subcommittee will have similar discussions with our current Strategic Partners (NASA, NOAA and EPA), prospective Strategic Partners (USGS and NSF) and other appropriate entities working in the field.

Expected outcomes of the Subcommittee:

- An evaluation of the effectiveness of the ESIP Federation in meeting its Strategic Plan goals and objectives for 2004-2007;
- An evaluation of the ESIP Federation's organizational structure including such issues as the adequacy of the current ESIP Type designations and the feasibility of longer term lengths for officers;
- An evaluation of the ESIP Federation's web presence and collaboration tools and how the various elements of these initiatives fit together;

- Draft recommendations for updating the ESIP Federation's Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2010;
- Draft recommendation for improving the services and programs provided by the ESIP Federation and for assigning responsibility for implementation;
- Draft recommendations for the staffing and resource levels required to support the services and programs desired and the work of Federation committees, working group and cluster;
- Draft recommendations relating to sustainability;
- Draft recommendations relating to Strategic Partner and other Partner roles, benefits and obligations;
- Draft recommendations relating to future growth strategies; and,
- Draft recommendation relating to governance and responsibility.